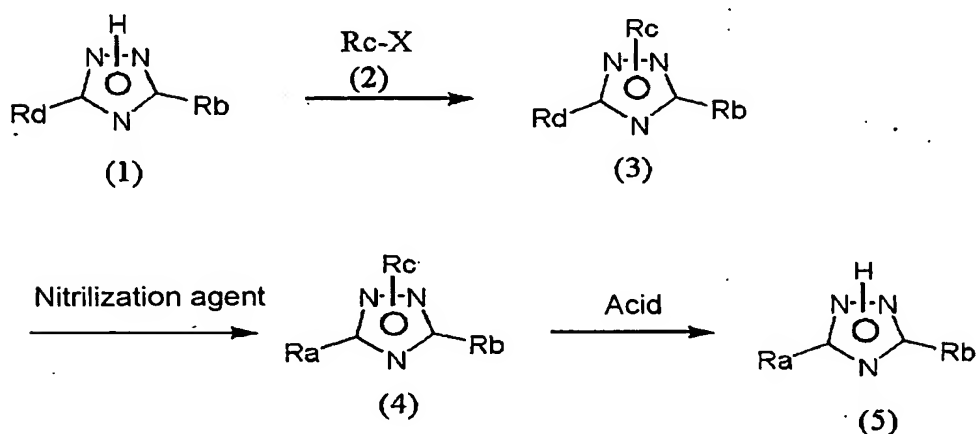


ABSTRACT

Provided is a process for producing 1,2,4-triazole compound (5), or a salt or hydrate thereof which comprises reacting compound (1) with Rc-X (2) to give compound (3), reacting compound (3) with a nitrilization agent to give compound (4), and then removing the group Rc, as shown by the reaction scheme:



(Wherein Ra, Rb and Rd represent a group, Rc represents a group which can be removed by an acid)

A 1,2,4-triazole compound (5) having an optionally substituted 2-cyanopyridin-4-yl group at 3-position and an optionally substituted aromatic group at 5-position which inhibits a xanthine oxidase and is useful for treatment of gout and hyperuricemia can be obtained from compound (1) in a high yield without requiring isolation of reaction products in the course of reactions.